

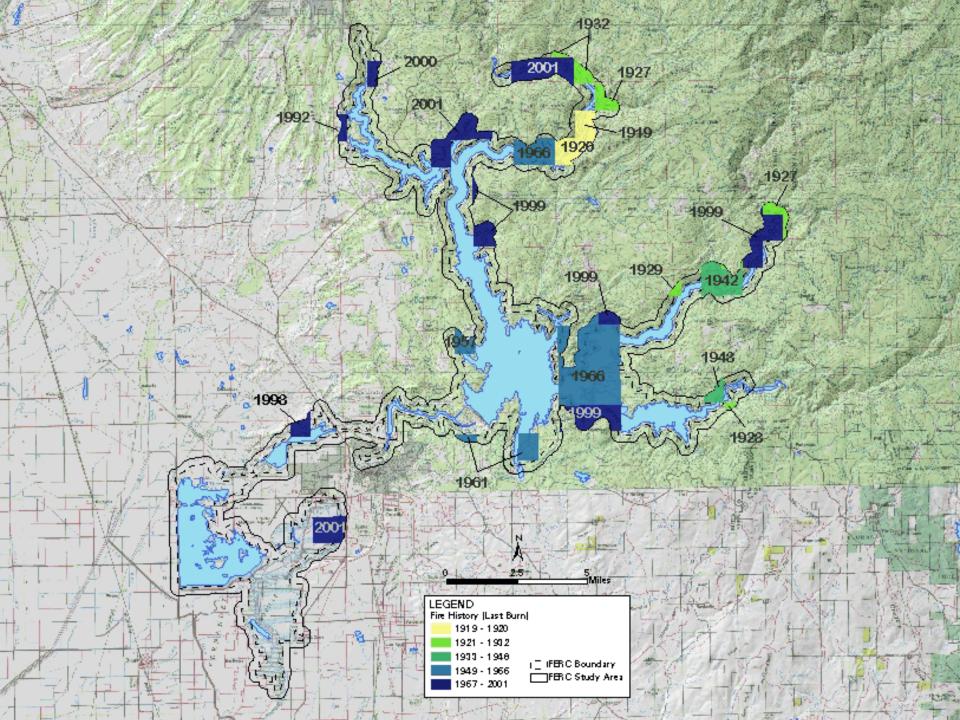
#### CDF Fuel Hazard Model

Most of the study area is classified as having a moderate fuel hazard rank

| Area                                    | Fuel Hazard Classification (percent of total area) |      |           |
|---|--|------|-----------|
|   | Moderate   | High | Very High |
| Lake Oroville                           | 22   | 28   | 15        |
| Diversion Pool and Thermalito Forebay   | 7  | 4    | -         |
| Thermalito Afterbay                     | 12   | -    | ~         |
| Bypass Reach and Oroville Wildlife Area | 12   | -    | -         |
| Total                                   | 53%  | 32%  | 15%       |

#### **CDF Fuel Hazard Model**

- Areas of very high fuel hazard are primarily located along the eastern edge of the lake, including areas on the south and middle forks, and along the lower and upper north fork.
  - topographic slope increases
  - woodland and shrubs are the dominant vegetation types



## Report Outline

- Purpose and need for the study
- Study objectives
- Background on fuel loading issues in California
- Existing fuel load conditions in the FERC study area
- How we will evaluate fuel hazards for the project
- Fuel load reduction techniques
- Next steps

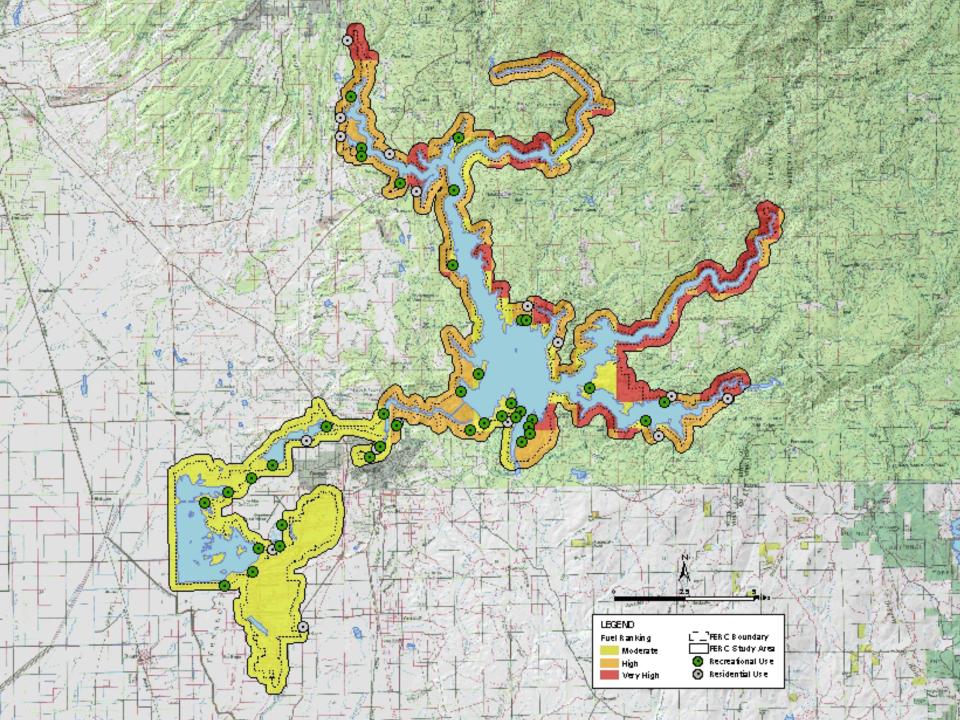
# Approach to Fuel Hazard Evaluation for the Project

- Identify areas of concentrated use
- Determine overlap of these areas and very high fuel hazard rank
- From this subset, use vegetation classification maps produced by Environmental Working Group to examine area at more detailed scale

#### Areas of Concentrated Human Use

- Recreation areas: campgrounds, day-use areas, boat launches, trail access
- Residential areas: e.g., Kelly Ridge, Canyon Creek, south of Paradise, South Fork





# **Environmental Working Group Vegetation Classification**

- More detailed mapping than CDF model
- Vegetation type and density classified using WHR system
- Does not include ladder or crown fuels information, or other variables used in CDF Model
- However, data can be used to:
  - refine the fuel hazard evaluation
  - help determine appropriate fuel reduction techniques



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#### **Prescribed Burn**

- Ignited by management to meet objectives
- Contained by fire lines
- Maintains dominant vegetation and structure
- Targets elimination of shrubs and trees up to 6" DBH
- Controls weeds, promotes nutrient cycling, and improves wildlife habitat



#### Pile Burn

- Removed materials are piled and burned
- Eliminates shrubs and trees up to 6" DBH
- Reduces surface concentration and ladder fuels



#### **Mastication**

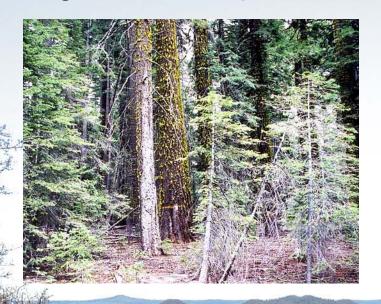
- Grinds fuel into mulch and presses into ground
- Clears brush, shrubs, and trees up to 10" DBH



Used to achieve crown separation and desired canopy cover

## **Thinning**

- Removes trees to achieve optimum spacing (16-22')
- Removes biomass from stand to achieve crown separation and desired canopy cover
- Targets trees up to 6" DBH, but occasionally larger





#### **Yarding**

- Stores removed trees in a central location until a later time when marketable
- Helicopters are used in steep grade areas



## **Chipping and Multicutting**

- Leaves cut material in place onsite
- Grinds or chops material into mulch or groundcover





## Disking/Mowing

- Quick methods to clear and reduce fuel biomass
- Turns vegetation into the topsoil
- Mowing leaves roots in place
- Used in flat terrain and grassy vegetation



## Grazing

- Livestock removes vegetation
- Goats are effective on steep slopes
- Animals are kept in by temporary fencing



#### Herbicides

- Chemicals that kill or inhibit germination of plants
- Applied to stems, surface of stump, soil, or foliage





## Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZ)

- Provide a network of corridors that inhibit fire spread
- Generally ¼ mile wide, depending on constraints
- Provide a safe location to facilitate fire suppression
- Involves thinning surface fuels, ladder fuels, and canopy closure



## Community Defense Zones (CDZ)

- Located in urban interface areas near forested areas
- Reduces threat of wildfire spread
- High priority to protect urban areas
- Local involvement is important for success



## Fuel Reduction Zones (FRZ)

- General area of fuel treatment
- Treated after DFPZs and CDZs are implemented
- Reduces surface and ladder fuels
- Provides canopy separation



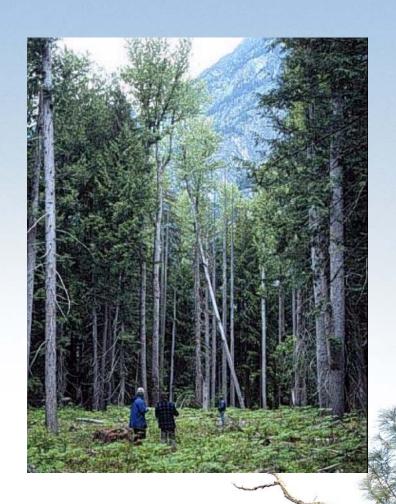
## Strategically-placed Area Treatments (SPLAT)

- Strategically placed blocks of land (50 -1,000 acres)
- Prevent fire from spreading from bottom of slope to top of ridge
- Reduces continuous areas of hazardous fuel loads



## **Group Selection**

- Maintain a sustainable multi-story forest structure to improve fire resistance
- Average rotation age of 175 years
- Create ½ to 2-acre groups
- Preserves and promotes existing large trees



#### **Next Steps**

- Detailed analysis of specific areas within very high fuel hazard
- Evaluate fuel load reduction strategies and treatments, with input from other working groups
- Provide recommendations for specific areas
- Final report due June 2003